

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1 (Canceled)

2 (Previously presented): The thrust needle bearing according to claim 8, wherein the value of the arithmetic average roughness Ra of a pocket guide face of said cage is set to at most 0.4  $\mu\text{m}$ .

3 (Previously presented): The thrust needle bearing according to claim 8, wherein the value of the arithmetic average roughness Ra of said race is set to at most 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$ .

4 (Previously presented): The thrust needle bearing according to claim 8, used in a compressor for an air conditioner.

5 (Previously presented): The thrust needle bearing according to claim 8, used in an automatic transmission.

6 (Currently amended): A thrust needle bearing employing lubricating oil and having a rolling element held by a cage and rolling on a race, wherein

the cage has a cage pocket, in which the rolling element is stored to come in contact with a pocket guide face thereof constituted by a shear plane formed through pressing for the cage pocket, [[and]]

the clearance between the pocket guide face of said cage and said rolling element is set to at least 60  $\mu\text{m}$  and at most 130  $\mu\text{m}$ , and

a ratio of the value of the arithmetic average roughness Ra of the rolling element to the value of the arithmetic average roughness Ra of the pocket guide face is set to 0.2 to 0.375.

7 (Previously presented): The thrust needle bearing according to claim 6, wherein said cage has a radial section with a shape of a square wave rising and falling in the form of a square between a first level and a second level different from each other in height,

said cage has portion of said first level at a location corresponding to a radial central portion of said rolling element, and said portion of said first level has a first convex portion which can be contacted with a circumferential surface of said radial central portion of said rolling element, and

said cage has portions of said second level at locations respectively corresponding to an inner circumferential side and an outer circumferential side of said radial central portion of said rolling element, and said portions of said second level have second convex portions which can be respectively contacted with end surfaces of the inner circumferential side and the outer circumferential side of said rolling element.

8 (Currently amended): A thrust needle bearing employing lubricating oil and having a rolling element held by a cage and rolling on a race, wherein

the cage has a cage pocket, in which the rolling element is stored to come in contact with a pocket guide face thereof constituted by a shear plane formed through pressing for the cage pocket,

the clearance between the pocket guide face of said cage and said rolling element is set to at least 60  $\mu\text{m}$  and at most 130  $\mu\text{m}$ , [[and]]

the value of the arithmetic average roughness Ra of said rolling element coming into contact with the shear plane is set to at least 0.08  $\mu\text{m}$  and at most 0.15  $\mu\text{m}$ , and

a ratio of the value of the arithmetic average roughness Ra of the rolling element to the value of the arithmetic average roughness Ra of the pocket guide face is set to 0.2 to 0.375.

9 (Original): The thrust needle bearing according to claim 6, used in a compressor for an air conditioner.

10 (Original): The thrust needle bearing according to claim 6, used in an automatic transmission.